

diameter and about 27 to 30 inches long. These rolls were then spun into fine yarn which was ordinarily not doubled and twisted when used for cloth. The yarn was wound into skeins on a reel and then dyed the desired color, provided the wool had not already been dyed.

The hand looms used were usually clumsy and the manipulation of them was hard, fatiguing work. The two most common fabrics manufactured in the homes were woolen and linsey. To spin one pound of wool into yarn in one day required considerable effort and skill, and to weave from five to seven yards of cloth constituted a good day's work.



FIGURE 107—Spinning wheel for spinning wool into yarn. This type of machine was used during pioneer days.

Cotton goods. Calicoes and other fabrics were freighted by ox teams across the great plains. This long trek overland necessarily made them expensive. During the Civil War period, calicoes sold for one dollar or more a yard. Where there was little money in circulation, as is true in most pioneer communities, the purchase of a calico dress was an event in the life of its owner. It is not surprising that mending of clothing was carefully, and as a rule, skillfully done by the women of this hardy and ambitious group of people. Another thing that contributed to high standards in mending lay in the fact that practically all clothing was made by hand. All trimming was also hand made. Small pieces of hand made, crocheted, knitted, or netted lace were used for collars, ties, frills, and cuffs.

The love of color and the desire for personal adornment stimulated